

Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan

This plan has been developed to minimize and prevent exposure of employees to disease causing microorganisms in human blood. All employees who could be exposed to blood or infectious materials are involved in this program. The OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard applies to those persons who are first aid trained and those who would be exposed while not in a first aid capacity.

Bloodborne Pathogens

Those agents, primarily viruses, present in human blood, semen, vaginal secretions, internal body fluids, and any body fluid contaminated with blood. Urine, feces, and vomit are not considered infectious unless contaminated with blood. The two worst pathogens are considered to be HIV/AIDS (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) and HBV (Hepatitis B Virus). Of these two, HBV is the most prevalent and most contagious, while HIV/AIDS can be fatal.

Hazards

HIV/AIDS and HBV can be spread in the workplace by blood contact with an open wound (scratch or cut), blood contact with mucous membranes (mouth, eyes, nose), or being stuck with a used hypodermic needle (diabetic use).

Clothing and other materials can become contaminated and can be sites for infection. An employee can be exposed by using improperly cleaned equipment where blood and/or body fluids are present, such as touching and removing blood-soaked clothing or bandages. Someone away from the job can also be affected, such as a spouse or garbage collector who comes in contact with the contaminated material.

Prevention

Protective Equipment: protective items must be used during administration of first aid or CPR (disposable rubber gloves, eye protection, and mouthpiece or airway device). These must be readily available on the job site.

Handling: once-used rubber gloves must be disposed of. Employees must wash their hands immediately after removal of disposable gloves. Equipment in contact with blood or body fluids must be washed immediately with soap and water.

Clothing and Articles: personal clothing and equipment must be cleaned, laundered, disposed of or replaced, if contaminated. The boss logger supervises the disposal as needed. Consider calling the local health department or other medical authorities for disposal assistance. Sharp objects must be placed in puncture-proof bags.

Housekeeping: All equipment and work areas exposed to blood or other body fluids must be cleaned with a disinfectant. All tarps and protective covers should be cleaned or replaced, if contaminated. Eating, drinking, smoking, and applying contact lenses are prohibited in work areas where there is a possibility of contact with human blood or body fluids.

